

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the non-final Office Action mailed on November 28, 2007. Claims 17, 21-27, 29, and 30 are pending. Claims 17, 26, 29, and 30 have been amended. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 28-30 are allowable.

Claims 17, 23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,691,895 to Strecker. Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Strecker* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,540,104 to Yanagita et al. Claim 24 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Strecker* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,672,519 to Hunter et al. Claim 17 is the sole independent claim subject to these grounds of rejection. Independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 28. Consequently, dependent claim 28 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Applicants have made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this response. However, if any additional fees are necessary as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
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